

SENATE JUDICIARY
 COMMITTEE NO. 12
 DATE 3/26/13
 HB 505

TO: The Senate Judiciary Committee

FROM: Margaret Dore, Esq.

RE: Vote "Yes" on HB 505 (Prevent terrible deaths)

DATE: March 26, 2013

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1. **Letter from Kate Kelly to the Senate Judiciary Committee, A Response to David "Doc" Moore,** March 24, 2013 ("If these terrible deaths happen when aid in dying (assisted suicide and euthanasia) is not legal, what will happen if these practices are made legal? Doctors will have even more power to take away patient choice") A-1
2. **Letter from Mike Moe to the Senate Judiciary Committee,** March 23, 2013 ("Please vote for HB 505 to prevent doctors and nurses from having more power to cause patient deaths. They abuse the power they already have. Please consider my mother's story . . .") A-3
3. **Letter from Carol Mungas to the Great Falls Tribune,** March 14, 2013 ("As illustrated by my husband's case, doctors and nurses already abuse the power they have. The stakes are too high to consider expanding their power by legalizing assisted-suicide") A-5
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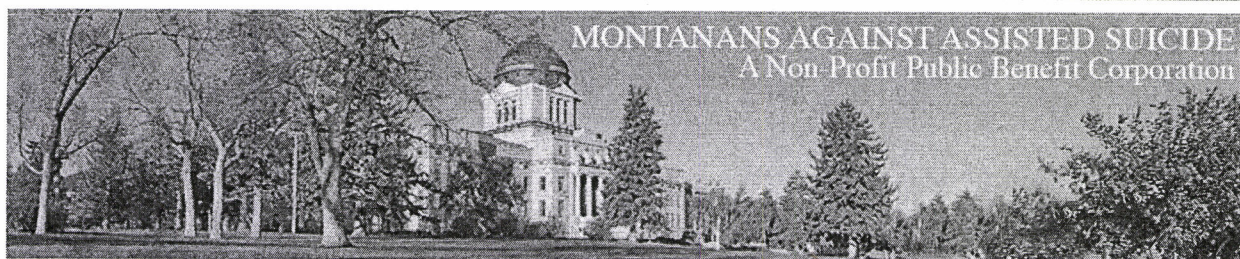
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- "Vote for HB 505 to stop a bad situation from getting worse"
- "Because of my mother's experiences, I no longer believe in "physician-assisted suicide." Support House Bill 505."
- "We urge you to vote in favor of HB 505,"
- "I hope that you will vote 'Yes' on HB 505"
- "I support House Bill 505, which clearly states that assisted suicide is not legal."

LAW ENFORCEMENT
VIEWPOINT AGAINST
ASSISTED SUICIDE

SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2013

A Response to Representative Moore

Re: Vote "Yes" on HB 505, A Response to David "Doc" Moore

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee:

I was moved by the recent letter in the Montana Standard by David "Doc" Moore who lost his wife to cancer eleven years ago. He says that when she "finally slipped into a coma, we thought that there would be relief." But, instead, "it was clear from her facial expressions and the constant death rattle that she was still suffering."

In 2009, my mother died a similar painful death. But it wasn't from her condition or a disease. You see, my mother was starved and dehydrated to death with massive doses of morphine after she'd had a mild stroke. It had not mattered that she had been trying to speak and had indicated that she wanted water. The family member holding power of attorney, affirmed by a young doctor, had decided that it was time for her to die.

I watched her die, day and night for six days. My mother tried to fight, to wake up, but to no avail. To use the vernacular of assisted suicide proponents, she did not get her choice.

When I read Representative Moore's letter, I couldn't help but wonder if his wife wasn't also fighting to wake up, against a lack of water and food, against a constant stream of morphine, against a medical practice approved by doctors and nurses gone terribly wrong.

I could do nothing except watch my mother die slowly.

I have also, however, come to a different conclusion than Representative Moore. If these terrible deaths happen when aid in dying (assisted suicide and euthanasia) is not legal, what will happen if these practices are made legal? Doctors will have even more power to take away patient choice.

If we can't stop the abuse now, how will we be able to stop the abuse then?

WELCOME!

**Tell your legislators
to vote "Yes" on HB
505! Call 406 444
4800.**

**Read the Press
Release by 112
Montana Physicians
Supporting HB 505!**

**SENATOR SHOCKLEY
SPEAKS AGAINST ASSISTED
SUICIDE; WARNS OF ABUSE
BY HEIRS**



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**ABOUT PHYSICIAN- ASSISTED
SUICIDE**

Legal physician-assisted suicide encourages people with many quality years left to throw away their lives.

Legalization is a recipe for elder abuse.

In Oregon, legalization has empowered the Oregon Health Plan to steer citizens to suicide.

In Oregon, other suicides have increased with legalization.

In Washington, the only other state with



Philip Tummarello,
retired Sergeant
Inspector - click on
photo to see video

VOICES FROM OREGON AND WASHINGTON WHERE ASSISTED SUICIDE IS LEGAL

- "I was afraid to leave my husband alone"
- "If Dr. Stevens had believed in assisted suicide, I would be dead"
- "In Oregon, the only help my patient received was a lethal prescription, intended to kill him."
- "It wasn't the father saying that he wanted to die"
- "He made the mistake of asking about assisted suicide"

BRADLEY WILLIAMS SPEAKS AGAINST ASSISTED SUICIDE

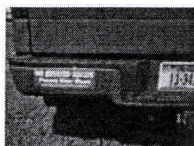


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MORE INFORMATION

- Why do so many disability groups oppose assisted suicide?
- Laws Against Assisted Suicide are Constitutional
- Montana Constitution Has No "Right to Die"
- Legal analysis of failed bill to legalize assisted suicide, SB 220

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In 2009, I first published my mother's story, which can be viewed at <http://www.choiceillusion.org/p/vsed.html> I have since been contacted by adult children in both the US and Canada whose parents were involuntarily starved and dehydrated to death.

I have been following with great admiration the efforts of Montana to rid itself of the threat of assisted suicide. I hope that you will vote "Yes" on HB 505. I offer my heartfelt condolences to Representative Moore and his family.

Thank you.
Kate Kelly, B. A., B.Ed.

Posted by Admin at 9:17 AM
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Labels: HB 505, Kate Kelly

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legal assisted suicide,
there have been
proposals to expand
that law to direct
euthanasia of
non-terminal people.

For more information,
go to Quick Facts
About Assisted Suicide.

A RECIPE FOR ELDER ABUSE



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Preserve choice for
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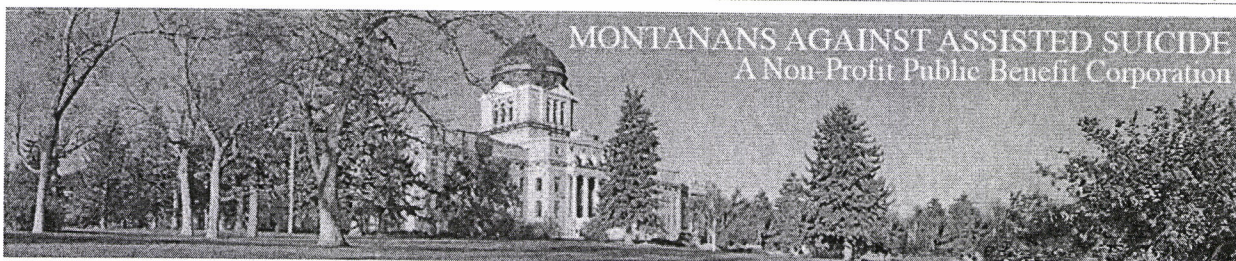
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- aid in dying (48)
- American Medical Association (5)
- assisted suicide (85)
- Barbara Coombs Lee (3)
- Barbara Wagner (6)
- Baxter (25)
- Blewett (15)
- Bradley Williams (25)
- Carol Mungus (1)
- Charles Bentz MD (4)
- Choice is an Illusion (1)
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- Constitutional Right (1)
- contagion (2)
- Cory Swanson (1)



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LAW ENFORCEMENT
VIEWPOINT AGAINST
ASSISTED SUICIDE

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2013

" Vote for HB 505 to stop a bad situation from getting worse"

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee:

Please vote for HB 505 to prevent doctors and nurses from having more power to cause patient deaths. They abuse the power they already have. Please consider my mother's story below. I urge you to vote "yes" on HB 505.

My mother, Sharon Moe, was diagnosed with colon cancer in February of this year. After her surgery, I was told that she may be able to live for 6 months to 2 years. My mother was against assisted suicide and euthanasia and wanted to live as long as possible. She was placed back in the care of the nursing facility where hospice started to care for her. She was placed on a continual feed through a feeding tube because she was unable to take in anything orally due to her medical condition.

From the beginning, hospice wanted to stop the continual feed. My mother was adamant that she wanted to live and told the hospice nurse that she wanted to stay on the continual feed. My mother was able to converse and sit upright within a day or so after being taken back to the nursing facility. Her health was improving and she was doing really well after surgery despite the fact that she was underweight from not being able to eat.

The hospice nurse was still wanting to remove the continual feeding, even though my mother was doing well. My mother was able to tolerate the food and was not aspirating from it. The nurse placed a pain patch on my mother even though she wasn't in pain. They didn't ask her if she was in pain--they just administered the pain patch because she had a 'furrowed brow'. This pain patch caused my mother to hallucinate and be in a semi-comatose state. She was talkative and looking better before the patch was administered. After the patch had been in her system overnight, she started seeing things and was very scared.

My mother did not get the chance to live on longer as she had willed, but her death was hastened by dehydration and

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starvation after removing the continual feeding. My mother was not experiencing any pain and would tell someone if she had it. There were some apparent abuses and some subtle abuses.

These abuses will be multiplied many fold if legalized physician assisted suicide is legalized in Montana. If they are doing this while assisted suicide is illegal, what will they do when assisted suicide is legalized?

The recent guest column by Dr. Stephan Speckart and other doctors claims that assisted suicide is already legal. For that reason, I support House Bill 505, which clearly states that assisted suicide is not legal. We have enough abuse already. Please vote for HB 505 to stop a bad situation from getting worse.

Mike Moe, Great Falls

Posted by Admin at 12:56 PM
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legal assisted suicide, there have been proposals to expand that law to direct euthanasia of non-terminal people.

For more information, go to Quick Facts About Assisted Suicide.

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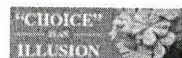


Julie's Sign: No assisted suicide. No assisted elder abuse. Preserve choice for seniors.

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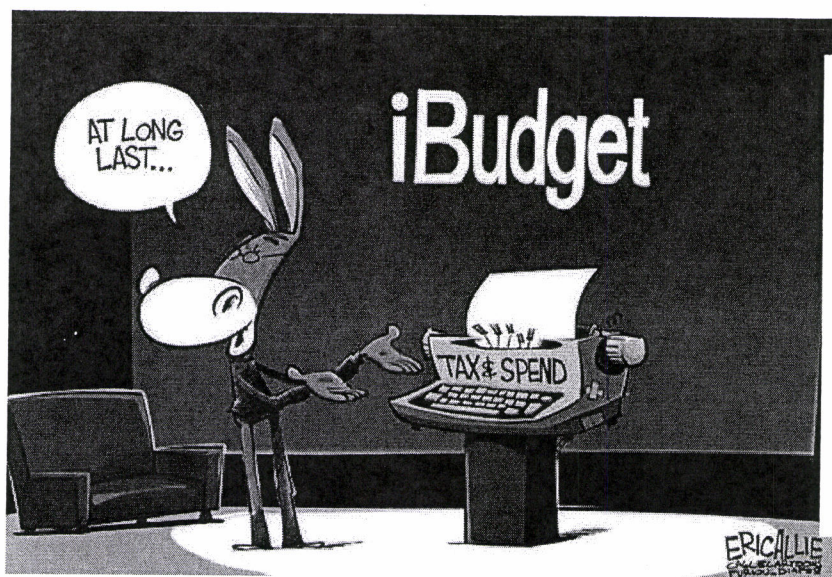
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Against suicide

My husband, Dr. James E. Mungas, was a respected physician and surgeon here in Great Falls. He developed amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, and I took care of him. His mind was clear and thought processes unimpaired. He was against assisted suicide and euthanasia.

I needed to travel out of town for a day and a half. We agreed he would stay at a local care facility in my absence. Once there, nurses began administering morphine. After the first dose, my husband knew that he had been overdosed and typed out a message to call respiratory therapy. None came that day. Over the next few days, he struggled to breathe and desperately struggled to remain conscious to communicate, but the nurses kept pushing the morphine button and advised our children to do the same. My children and I

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did not understand the extent morphine would repress the respiratory system until later.

This was neither palliative care nor managing pain; this was hastening death. He was effectively euthanized against his will. He did not get his choice. It is traumatic, still, to realize his last communications were attempts to get help.

As illustrated by my husband's case, doctors and nurses already misuse or abuse the power they have. The stakes are too high to consider expanding their power by legalizing assisted-suicide. The recent guest column by Dr. Stephen Speckart and other doctors claims that assisted suicide is already legal. For that reason, I support House Bill 505, which clearly states that assisted suicide is not legal.

— Carol Mungas,

Great Falls

Cut fire danger

The Sun River Watershed Group supports the proposed action with the Benchmark III Fuels Reduction Project as described in the latest environmental assessment. This project is very important to the SRWG in resolving a severe hazardous fuels problem to the benefit of everyone interested in this drainage.

The Benchmark fuels condition is the result of decades of past fire suppression that now requires immediate action to reduce the chance of a catastrophic fire that will cause even greater risk to human life and residential buildings in the immediate proximity of this project. As described in the assessment, the use of tree harvest, tree thinning and controlled burns will be the best action for the long-term health of the forest while benefiting wildlife and public safety.

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inspire Great Falls High art
Mar. 15, 2013

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Rock of Ages



In memoriam: Those we lost in 2012

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Family member's 'accidental' death provides example for opposition to assisted suicide

MARCH 05, 2013 11:46 AM • ONLINE-ONLY LETTER TO THE EDITOR

This letter is being written for a right to live. We taxpayers paid a phenomenal amount of money when others decided it was time for my mother to die. She would not die! Three times she defied attempts on her life, costing her bed sores, hospice and her daughter being arrested while helping her (the latter arrest record was dismissed).

Mom succumbed in the hospital on Sept. 6, 2010. The coroner's report case No. 100906 lists congestive heart failure with oxygen deprivation and fentanyl therapy. The manner of death: accident.

Fentanyl is reported "to be 80 to 200 times as potent as morphine." A fentanyl patch of 100 mcg/hour has a range within 24 hours of 1.9-3.8ng/mL. Mom's death result was 2.7 ng/mL on or about 48 hours.

Complaint No. 2012-069-MED was filed with the Montana Department of Labor and Industry Board of Medical Examiners. The screening panel voted to dismiss the complaint with prejudice, which means the board may not consider the complaint in the future.

Because of my mother's experiences, I no longer believe in "physician-assisted suicide." Support House Bill 505.

Gail Bell,

Bozeman